

Appl. No.: 10/541,519

Reply to Office Action of: 11/16/2007

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0519815 A1. The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the rear holder comprises a plurality of resilient clamping lances pushing respective connector terminals into a plurality of terminal receiving holes provided in the first connector in a single or multi-deck configuration and engaging the connector terminals therein not to be withdrawn backwardly. Although the electrical connector described in EP 0519815 seems to be similar to the present invention, there exists a clear difference between them.

The lance included in the rear holder of the present invention is configured to push a connector terminal into the corresponding terminal receiving hole and to engage the connector terminal therein. The terminal receiving holes are provided in a single or multi-deck configuration. In contrast, the rear holder 45 in EP 0519815 cannot push a connector terminal into a terminal-receiving hole and, furthermore, the terminal receiving holes are not in the form of a multi-deck construction. Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the rear holder comprises a plurality of resilient clamping lances pushing respective connector terminals into a plurality of terminal receiving holes provided in the first connector in a single or multi-deck configuration. This is

Appl. No.: 10/541,519

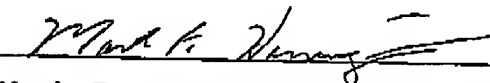
Reply to Office Action of: 11/16/2007

not disclosed or suggested in EP 0519815. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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1/29/08
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